(d) by what time Government is likely to accept and implement the suggestions made in the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Development implements a number of schemes for poverty alleviation, employment generation, creation of rural infrastructure and amenities in rural areas. To improve further rural infrastructure, a major plan for rebuilding of rural India, which has now been conceived as a business plan called 'Bharat Nirman' is being implemented over a period of four years 2005-2009. The six components of the Bharat Nirman are, village electrification, provisioning of safe sources of drinking water, village connectivity by telephone and all-weather roads, creation of additional irrigation capacity and construction of house for rural poor. The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing three of the six components of Bharat Nirman *i.e.,* rural roads, rural housing and rural drinking water Supply. Another ambitious schemes taken up from 2nd February, 2006 by the Government is National Rural Employment Guarantee, which envisages to provided 100 days guaranteed employment to each rural household each year, those who want to take up manual work.

On account of implementation of above programmes and other developmental schemes, there has been general improvements. As per the national Sample Organization's 61st round of the consumer expenditure data for 2004-2005, the poverty ratio for rural areas declined to 28.3% as against 37.3% in 1993-94. The findings of the concurrent evaluation of self employment programme namely Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)-2002, reveals that 15.09% members sampled swarozgaris of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and 37.24% sampled individual swarojgaris crossed the poverty line.

The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has recently published a report regarding creation of infrastructure facilities in rural areas titled "INDIA Rural Infrastructure Report" 2007. The report broadly covers the sectors of telecommunications, power, roads and transport, water and sanitation. The report estimated an investment of Rs. 1,58,313 crore needed for full coverage at 2002-03 prices. Besides the sectoral recommendation, the Report recommended new approaches through promoting local initiatives, offering micro-finance to build demand, encouraging private providers, decentralizing regulations, decentralizing fiscal authority and targeting subsidies.

Income earmarked for determining poverty line

†981. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the income in rupees earmarked for determining poverty line at present;

(b) whether it is uniform in all the States or different income has been fixed in this regard, if it is different, the details of its limit, State-wise; and

(c) the basis for fixing the same, the weightage given to different factors and the details of these factors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The Planning Commission uses a poverty line based on per capita consumption expenditure as the criterion to determine the persons living below the poverty line. It does not take into consideration income for determining poverty line. The national poverty line at 2004-05 prices is Rs. 356.30 per capita per month in the rural areas and Rs. 538.60 per capita per month in the urban areas.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) No, Sir. The State-wise poverty lines differ on account of inter-state price differential. The latest estimate of poverty lines in rural and urban areas available for the year 2004-05, is given in Statement *(See* below).

(c) The poverty line adopted by the Planning Commission is defined as per capita consumption of Rs. 49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level. These correspond to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The national level rural and urban poverty lines (in 1973-74) are disaggregated into state-specific poverty lines using state-specific price indices and inter-state price differentials. These state-specific poverty lines of 1973-74 are updated for the later years using state-specific Consumer Price Index of Agricultural Labourers (CPIAL) in the rural areas and Consumer Price Index of Industrial Workers (CPIIW) in the urban areas following the methodology contained in the report of the Expert Group of 'Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor*. The national poverty lines in later years are worked out as an interpolated value from the national level consumption distribution obtained from the NSS consumer expenditure data and the national level poverty ratio. The national level poverty ratio is estimated as an average of state-wise poverty ratios.

Statement

State Specific Poverty Line in 2004-05

(Rs. Per capita per month)

Sl.No. State/UT	Rural	Urban
1 2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	292.95	542.89
2. Assam	387.64	378.84
3. Bihar	354.36	435.00
4. Chhattisgarh	322.41	560.00
5. Delhi	410.38	612.91
6. Goa	362.25	665.90
7. Gujarat	353.93	541.16
8. Haryana	414.76	504.49
9. Himachal Pradesh	394.28	504.49
10. J&K	391.26	553.77
11. Jharkhand	366.56	451.24
12. Karnataka	324.17	599.66
13. Kerala	430.12	559.39
14. Madhya Pradesh	327.78	570.15
15. Maharashtra	362.25	665.90
16. Orissa	325.79	528.49
17. Punjab	410.38	466.16
18. Rajasthan	374.57	559.63

1 2	3	**4**
19. Tamil Nadu	351.86	547.42
20. Uttar Pradesh	365.84	**483.26**
21. Uttarakhand	478.02	**637.67**
22. West Bengal	382.82	**449.32**
23. D&N Haveli	362.25	**665.90**
ALL INDIA*	356.30	**538.60**

***** The poverty line (implicit) at all India level is worked out from the expenditure class-wise distribution of persons (based on URP-consumption, that is, consumption data collected from 30 day recall period for all items) and the poverty ratio at all India level. The poverty ratio at all-India is obtained as the weighted average of the State-wise poverty ratio.

Setting up of National Land Reforms Council

982. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is setting up National Land Reforms Council;

(b) if so, the terms of reference, tenure and who would man the council;

(c) whether the issue of rampart sale of Government land in the name of industrialization of certain States would be looked into by the Council; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) It has been decided by Government of India to constitute a "Committee on State Agraian Relations and the Unfinished Task-in Land Reforms" under the Chairmanship of Minister for Rural Development and a "National Council for Land Reforms" under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The composition, terms of reference, etc. of the Committee and the Council are being finalized.

Implication of National Land Reforms Council

†983. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the implication of National Land Reforms Council announced by Government;

(b) whether the above council will be contemplating to frame an overall policy to solve the problem of Land Reform in the country in a stipulated time frame;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to constitute a National Commission for Compulsory Land Reforms in all States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (d) It has been decided by Government of India to constitute a "Committee on State Agrarian Relations and the Unfinished Task in Land Reforms" under the Chairmanship of Minister for Rural Development and a "National Council

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.